

FIGHT DURING GAS ATTACK TESTS QUALITIES OF SOLDIER

Infantrymen on Somme Share in Triumph as German Hope and Prestige Are Shattered.

BY SECOND LIEUT. J. B. MORTON,
Special Correspondence of The Star.

FRANCE, August 15.—"So this," said Tim, "is being on the Somme."

He looked over the parapet at the German trenches and the villages among the trees beyond. Away to the left the infantry seemed almost untouched by shell fire. As he stood on the firestep he could feel the earth trembling with concussion. The guns were never silent, for these were the days of the steady advance that did so much to wear down the German morale in this No Man's Land where he would rest that night, or if there would be such a thing as rest. Behind the infantry the guns crept forward, and the vast machinery of transport was steadily, surely moving up; the British army was taking little, vicious bites out of occupied territory. Yet it was not in territory that the German army was being worn down. It was the loss of hope and prestige and the shattering of nerves that counted for so much.

Curly, with a large slice of bread and fat bacon in one hand and a mug of tea in the other, was making a hearty breakfast.

"Never know when you'll get the next meal," he said. "I don't believe in scrooping on an empty stomach."

"Well, cocky, what about the somme?" asked Tim.

Just Mud and Noise.

"Oh, just the old business," said Curly. "Mud and noise, only more so than usual. But there's bags more excitement to make up for it. Always something doing. Don't you see, it's time to get the fed-up feeling. Why, I've plenty way you could've cried with 'em bled. There was a rat used to sit and wait for at night. He'd come regular every night, crawl in over my legs. Always came at the same time. I got to tell the time by it. 'Well, he was in his ways. Think he must've been a Gerby rat."

He went on munching.

"Ginger," he said presently. "Give us that bit about Michigan. You know something about the need of it. The red-haired man, who had not quite shaken off the provincial comedian, obliged with the song, and Tim and Curly took up the chorus.

"Seems to me," said Tim, "it doesn't much matter where you are as long as you're together. Get me! Look at us lot. We can always sing the same old songs. What does a change from the part of the line to another matter?"

Suddenly a strombos horn sounded above the roar of guns. The "gas alert" had been on for some time, as the wind was in a dangerous quarter. Respirators were quickly adjusted and the men stood to. Tim ran down the trench to rouse some men who were resting under a rough shelter. The company commander sent back the prearranged signal to the artillery. In a very short time all the men were at their posts, keeping as still as possible, avoiding talking, and firing every now and then to prevent their rifles fouling from the action of the gas.

Gradually Tim became aware that there was something wrong with his respirator. It was evidently a small defect that had escaped his notice when examining it. He realized that

LET THE BOYS DO IT.

Demonstration in Maryland of

Their Value on the Farm.

Francis B. Liversy in Easton (Md.) Gazette.

Boys settle farm labor. Nobody would believe it. Now Talbot county proves it. The whole country should follow.

Labor Director H. M. Renshaw of

Talbot county reports that the 500

boys that are on Talbot county farms

are making good and that the county

is far removed from farm labor shortage.

These boys are schoolboys between the ages of 13 and 17 and are

all residents of the towns of the county, none having been brought from Baltimore. There we have the

solution of the farm labor problem.

Every county of the whole country has it in its power to settle the farm

labor problem in the same way and

settle it not only for vacation and

harvest time, but for the whole year as well.

At the beginning of the war I said

there were boys enough in every

county to do its work if the labor

and school laws were suspended or

repealed and they were allowed to do

work. I stimulated a lot of farmers to

petition Gov. Harrington to let this

be done, but the clubwoman and the

pro-German raised a howl and the

governor backed down. Even after he

had consented to undertake the good

work.

Just as soon as the boys and girls

of every county have had work made

their object rather than education,

just that soon will all the needs of

the farmers, truckers and canners be

fully met, and all this rumormongering

labor on the farms will be effectively

coming out to do it—will be effectively

settled. But the backbone of our

important educational system must be

broken, and broken without any regard

to the famine faddists who

would rule and ruin the land. We

talk about the necessity of military

training to brace up the boys for a

better manhood if not for militarism

—will it fit a way in the line.

The thing is for these Talbot county

boys to go right along with the farm

work until the last shock of corn is

harvested next fall. Some of the states

are reported to have made this arrangement, but it should be made

everywhere. Let the school business

drop whenever there is the slightest

amount of work to be attended to.

Chicago got snarled last winter.

In the dilemma the thousands of

schoolboys were set loose on the

drifts, and the snow vied with it by

magic. It is a sin and a crime that

the boy power of the country is allowed to go so shamefully to waste.

OPTIMISTIC CHRISTIANS.

From the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

The war is bringing out a large demand for Christian men who are "good fellows" to go to France in the service of the Young Men's Christian Association. They are to be stationed in the association centers, to assist in maintaining the morale of the army, to serve the soldiers' needs in little attentions that army life cannot confer. These men are expected to assist in keeping the soldiers clean and capable, encourage and participate in the field sports, and furnish a good example for the men in a practical and mainly Christian living. Gen. Pershing has so far recognized the value of this service, and has asked for 4,000 such leaders who are above draft age and physically fitted for the hardships of army life. In all parts of the country men of the type desired have been responding to the call and doubtless still more are wanted and will be wanted until the war is ended. It should not be difficult for a Christian nation to furnish them in army numbers. The modern, half-fellow, out-of-doors, glad-to-be-alive variety of man is desired, and the United States for some years has been growing this type of citizen.

The old-style variety of long-faced, melancholy, depressing type of Christian has been "going out" for many years. A Christian requires no im-

ITALY'S LACK OF NECESSITIES TAKES PLACE OF HIGH PRICES

People Face Problem of Where to Get Next Meal—Valuable Time Lost in Search- ing for Food and Clothing.

ROME, August 10.—The value of time lost in looking for articles to eat and wear is one of the new elements that has come to be counted in connection with the high cost of living in Italy, according to Food Controller Dr. Silvio Crespi.

Practically every member of every household now spends several hours each day in searching for butter, sugar, flour, coal, oil or clothing needed at home. Those persons who have servants have been compelled either to increase their number of servants or to do part of the servants' work while the latter run from store to store attempting to locate articles absolutely required to keep the household going.

The question of high prices, which was long a disturbing factor, has been supplanted by that of scarcity. There exists everywhere a scarcity of carpets, table linen, dishes, kitchen utensils, shoes that fit, men's collars and every article that can be named.

In Rome, the capital city, heads of families, whether ambassadors, ministers, clerks, doctors or cooks, are now compelled to occupy themselves with these details. Their conversation regarding the war, diplomacy, peace or other important matters is interrupted by the problem of where they are going to get the next meal, or if they are going to be able to find enough sugar to put in tomorrow's coffee.

Real Test of Friendship.

"The test of true friendship is no longer if a man will lay down his life for you or loan you money," recently said David Lubin of the International Institute of Agriculture, "but if he will tell you where you can find food."

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shoes or paid so much attention to

footwear as since the prices have

increased from \$1 and \$2 the pair

to \$10, even \$15, the pair. Women

who formerly wore low shoes the

year around, as they were able to

do because of the mild climate, now

want shoes with leather tops reach-

ing half way up the calf.

Conducive to Good Health.

At the American College for Catho-

lic students in Rome it is a matter

of record that never has the health

of the students been so good as dur-

ing this period of enforced eating of

brown bread and rice and lentils and

macaroni, with meat two or three

times a week only. The college

physician has not been called in a

single time within the past school

year, yet previously he had to be

called nearly every day. At that time

there were orders

Join Co-Operative Associations.

The loss of time consequent upon

filling out food cards and coal cards

and rice and macaroni cards has been

such, with the loss of time in going

after the provisions which the cards

call for, but don't deliver, that many

classes of persons have joined co-

operative associations or formed new

ones.

One such co-operative association is

that formed by the newspaper men.

This co-operative has its own store,

where rice, macaroni, sugar, coal,

chocolate, cheese, wine, and other

groceries may be obtained by mem-

bers.

The government decrees regarding

the use of gas in particular have

proved expensive to many as regards

heating. Early in the winter it was

known that there would be little

coal or wood available, except at

high prices, so many families put in

gas stoves for heating, since many

of the municipalities have so far